

State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

PREScribed FIRE AWARENESS WEEK

2010

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is the skilled application of fire under planned weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific management objectives; and

WHEREAS, many of North Carolina's natural ecosystems are fire-dependent and require periodic fires occurring as often as every one to five years in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions, and every seven to ten years in the mountains for their perpetuation, restoration and management; and

WHEREAS, many plants, game, nongame and endangered wildlife species also require fire for their survival and to enhance their habitat; and

WHEREAS, as a key tool in the management of North Carolina's woodlands, grasslands and wildlife, prescribed fire is the most effective and economical protection against the risk and severity of wildfires through the reduction of fuels which have accumulated in the absence of fire and is therefore critical to the ecological integrity of our natural lands and lessening the loss of life and property; and

WHEREAS, the forestlands of the Old North State represent economic, biological and aesthetic resources of extraordinary significance; and

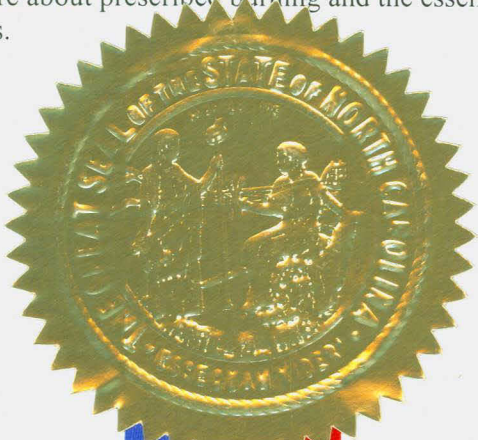
WHEREAS, prescribed burning of these forestlands helps to prepare sites for replanting and natural seeding, to control insects and diseases, to increase productivity and decrease the risk of catastrophic wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the use of prescribed fire on our military lands enhances military training and readiness and sustains natural diversity; and

WHEREAS, forestry is the second largest manufacturing industry in the state, contributing more than \$6 billion annually to the state's gross domestic product and providing nearly 97,000 jobs for North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has 18.6 million acres of forest, including state and national forest, military lands, wildlife refuges, nature preserves, game lands and private lands; and prescribed fire is one of the basic tools to achieve numerous management objectives in fire dependent ecosystems that evolved with recurring fire and therefore are dependent on recurring fire for maintenance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7-13, 2010, as "**PREScribed FIRE WEEK**" in North Carolina and call upon our citizens to learn more about prescribed burning and the essential role fire plays in the stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this sixteenth day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.